" Dr. Nagan Gouda and Sri Sankara Reddi met Sri Justice Misra in their free and personal capacities, not on behalf of this Government."

Issue of passports to foreign countries.

* 1254 *Q.*—Sri M. D. THIAGARAJA PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state why the Home Department take three or four months for issuing passports to go to foreign countries when they are duly recommended by the District Officer?

The Hon. Sri K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR:—" The issue of passports is not delayed as alleged, in the Home Department. If applications duly recommended by Collectors or the Commissioner of Police, as the case may be, are found on scrutiny to be in order and are accompanied by the relevant documents passports are issued forthwith. In the case of applications, however, that are found to be defective in any respect, the defects have to be set right by correspondence either with the applicant or the authorities concerned, which necessarily takes time and sometimes consultations with other State Governments or India Government are necessary."

Tirupatur-Krishnagiri and Morappur-Hosur railway lines.

9-20 a.m. * 1255 *Q.*—Sri M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any recommendation has been made by the State Government to the Union Ministry of Railways for the re-opening of the dismantled railway lines of Tirupatur-Krishnagiri and Morappur-Hosur in our State; and

(*b*) the nature of the reply received from the Railway Ministry?

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO:—" (*a*) Ever since the dismantlement of the lines in 1941, the Government of Madras have been urging the Central Government to take up the work connected with the restoration of the lines as metre gauge lines (instead of narrow gauge lines). An alternative proposal of linking Salem with Bangalore via Dharmapuri and Hosur by a metre gauge line is also under the consideration of this Government. After a decision is arrived at in the matter, the Government of India will again be addressed.

" (*b*) Does not arise."

Travelling allowance to some teachers for work connected with the general elections.

* 1256 *Q.*—Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state with reference to the answer to Question No. 152 given on 25th November 1952 whether it has since come to notice that teachers of some schools in Malabar,